



The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
1 JANUARY 1968

1. Yemen

The Soviets are withdrawing some of their people from Yemen. Nearly 200 Soviet experts assigned to a road project around Taiz have returned to Moscow, and other civilian, military, and diplomatic types have recently left Hudaydah.

We doubt this presages a general Soviet disengagement. Moscow probably wants to weed out personnel no longer needed now that the fighting has confined the Soviet presence almost entirely to Hudaydah.

[REDACTED]

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2. North Vietnam

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Ho looked less pale than at his last public appearance in August, but seemed more feeble and had a bandage on his neck. Ho gave a brief welcoming speech, but his major address was read by a subordinate.

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3. Finland

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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4. Soviet Union

One of Ambassador Thompson's colleagues claims to have been told "by a Soviet source" that Ambassador Dobrynin will soon be leaving Washington. His replacement is said to be Yakov Malik, a deputy foreign minister. We would view such a shift as routine; Dobrynin has been here nearly six years, and Malik would be a logical successor.

5. Iran

Ambassador Meyer described an audience late last week with the Shah as "one of the most unpleasant of my tour." The Shah was smouldering over the oil consortium's refusal to increase exports (and consequently payments to Iran) as well as the companies' insistence upon paying in devalued pounds.

After muttering "robbery," "thieves," and a few unprintable epithets, the Shah said arbitration of the issue is "totally unacceptable." He ended by threatening to settle the matter "once and for all" by "immediate legislation."

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